



Dear SALEM friends,

On 26th September my father Gottfried Müller – the founder of SALEM – died. In 1957 he had founded the Brotherhood SALEM in Stuttgart (Germany) together with friends.

He was a loving father who saw things clearly, at all times oriented toward God. I know now that he will help us from "above" and accompany us on the other side. Many things remind us of him and in front of me on my desk is a framed saying of his: "With God all things are possible".

In the last few weeks we have received much love and support. It did us a power of good to learn that so many people feel connected to SALEM and have a stake in our work.

Thank you all so much for this.

Recently we received the official document for the foundation of the SALEM Trust, which due to our charitable status has already been accepted by the respective authorities. The articles of association begin as follows:

"The SALEM Trust has been founded as a legal public foundation of civil law in order to permanently continue the commitment to worldwide peace begun by Gottfried Müller..."

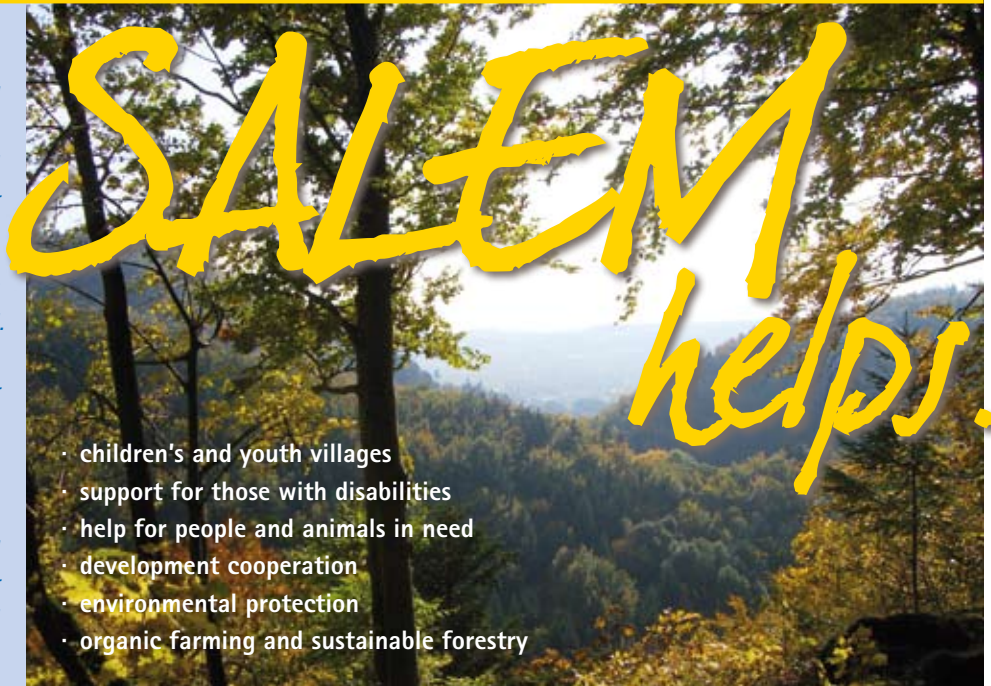
Thanks to the kind donations, small and large, from many people the foundations have been laid. Thank you very much!

As you can see, SALEM continues to take great steps towards peace around the world.

We wish you a merry and blessed Christmas time, on behalf of SALEM here in Germany and all over the world!

Yours

Samuel Müller, General Manager



- children's and youth villages
- support for those with disabilities
- help for people and animals in need
- development cooperation
- environmental protection
- organic farming and sustainable forestry

## ● You can join the Mission of SALEM

### THOM HARTMANN'S SPEECH WHEN HE WAS AT SALEM-STADTSTEINACH FOR GOTTFRIED MÜLLER'S FUNERAL

One of my favorite parts of the many years I spent with Gottfried Müller was how wonderfully he told me stories to illustrate a point. On a long walk through the forest, during one of our first meetings several decades ago, he was telling me about the founding of SALEM, about his perception of the essence of his SALEM work. He said one of his main guiding principles was a story about Jesus.

One day, he said, Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him how they could end up with Him in heaven. And He told them that in the last days, He would sit and separate the "goats from the sheep" – the bad people from the good people – based on their works.

And Jesus told His disciples that those who had fed Him when he was hungry, who had healed Him when he was sick, who had visited Him when he was in prison, who had given Him water when he was thirsty, or had welcomed Him when he was a stranger, would be able to join Him in heaven.

Now this, Herr Müller said, totally horrified the disciples. "We've never seen you

hungry!" they said. "You've never been sick or thirsty or a stranger to us! You've never been in prison! How can we make it to heaven now, when we can't do these simple things for you that you say are required for us to join you?" They were in a great distress!

And Herr Müller stopped walking along the trail, turned to face me, smiled broadly and lifted his finger into the air and said, as I recall, "But he then told them the greatest secret, gave them the most important order. 'As you do it to even the least of the least, you have done it to me.' And then they knew their work. And, knowing this story, so do I!"

That was in 1978, and later that year I began to read the Bible through, from beginning to end, for the first time. And when I came across the second half of the 25th Chapter of the book of Matthew I laughed with joy. This one time in the entire Bible when the disciples asked Jesus frankly and candidly what their spiritual work was, Jesus told them bluntly. Serve the least of the least.

(Continued on page 2)



Often Herr Müller used that phrase with me. Worms were the least of the least, and so he had to save their lives when possible.

The people of Uganda, when the Red Cross pulled out because their people were being shot, were then the least of the least, and therefore he and I had to go into Uganda.

The children who had been cast away by society or brutally abused by their parents were the least of the least and could find a home at SALEM.

The animals used in laboratory experimentation were the least of the least and so he created the SALEM Research Institute to prove that alternatives to animal experimentation were both cheaper and more effective for medical discoveries.

Food-factory animals were the least of the least and so he was a vegetarian.

A pregnant mother who wanted to keep her child but was faced with overwhelming economic or other pressures to abort was the least of the least so he opened a home for unwed mothers to come for free.

Those who couldn't be healed by conventional medicine were the least of the least, so he opened a clinic with alternative therapies as an option, often of last resort.

And now the work continues in Togo, Uganda, Ecuador, Sudan ...

Matthew 25 was, for Herr Müller, at the core of Christian teaching, and the teaching of all the world's great religions.

He took it as his own personal job assignment. There was a rather notorious man in prison who nobody had visited for years, and while this man was alive Herr Müller visited him once a year. He cared for anybody who asked for his help. He looked around the world for those surrogates of the suffering Christ who he may serve, and served them with enthusiasm.

The SALEM work lives on. And if we would like to join in serving the least of the least, we can do so by contributing our time, effort, or money to SALEM. And who knows? Maybe one day we'll all meet again as the goats are separated from the sheep ...

*Thom Hartmann*

Please help us distribute Christmas presents – to the children in SALEM-Ecuador



## Only a pair of shoes?

Sandrina is 7 years old and goes into the 2nd grade. Sandrina needs a uniform and matching black shoes to attend school. She also needs a pair of sneakers for physical education classes. Just for having old or dirty shoes and a uniform, her teachers will give her a poor grade. But she really is a good student!

Sandrina has no sneakers, just the black uniform and shoes because her young single mother does not have enough money to buy more than one pair of shoes for her and her two siblings, Naomi and Leonardo.

So every day she runs from morning until night in these one pair of shoes. The shoes get dusty and muddy from the dirty streets of the village. From all the playing and running they soon wear out. Before long the soles are loose and it looks like Sandrina is wearing small crocodiles on her feet.

Sandrina is a SALEM child and comes every afternoon, together with her siblings, to the SALEM children's village in Mindo, Ecuador. Her family is in need of our help. We prepare a healthy lunch for the children and often it is their first meal of the day. We are there for them if they have worries and give them the chance to be a child.

At Christmas, we would like to give Sandrina and all our 38 SALEM children new shoes. With the onset of the rainy season new shoes will mean that Sandrina's feet are dry and there is no moisture coming through the holes in her old shoes.

**Even in Ecuador a good pair of children's shoes that do not wear out after only two months cost at least 20 Euro.**

Would you like to make our children a true Christmas joy? Sandrina and her friends will appreciate you help.

*Jonas Lange, SALEM-Ecuador*



**Sandrina and her friends ask for new shoes**

## Meeting of SALEM friends in memory of Gottfried Müller

Dear SALEM friends around the world,

In spring 2010 (8th to 11th April) there will be a special meeting in memory of Gottfried Müller (10th April 1914 – 26th September 2009) at Lindenhof SALEM guest house in Stadtsteinach (Germany).

We would like to invite all people who have ever been touched by Gottfried Müller's spirit or who have known him personally to come here to join our little circle of SALEM friends and to remember him.

The price for this "long weekend" is 170 EUR (full-pension) from Thursday to Sunday. If you are interested please contact us under [info@saalem-mail.net](mailto:info@saalem-mail.net); we will help to arrange the necessary room bookings etc. for you.

We hope that many of you will be able to come and are very much looking forward to having you all here. See you soon!

*Samuel Müller*

## Condolence Message from Uganda

At this time we should thank God for the gift of Gottfried Müller, for the legacy he has left will never ever be erased and it's our responsibility as crusaders to carry on with this legacy.

Everybody should recommit himself or herself to the SALEM cause and for the children cause for that matter.

I send my sincere condolences to Samuel, Ursula, and all friends, colleagues, well wishers and stakeholders of SALEM International. May Gottfried rest in eternal life. SALEM Uganda held a special prayer on Monday 5th October 2009 at Kolonyi

*Joseph Balisanyuka,  
Chairman, SALEM-Uganda Board*

## In praise of SALEM

"SALEM wants to help people and invests money in children's villages, hospitals or organic farming and other such projects. This cannot be sustained without financial help. All donors want to be sure that their money is put to good use. SALEM knows that and therefore always shows openness and transparency towards all its sponsors. SALEM General Manager, Samuel Müller takes this very seriously. He knows how important confidence is and what happens if

he is going to lose it. I was able to convince myself of this on the spot and at SALEM's bank. In 2009 SALEM was the only non-profit organisation in its category to be ranked amongst the top three in the competition: Best Financial Communication for medium-sized companies."

*Prof. Dr. Stefan Stein  
Ifk (German) Institute for Credit and Public Finance  
Ruhr University of Bochum*



### YOUR WILL DURING YOUR LIFETIME

helps people, particularly children, in need. Many SALEM projects would not have been able without the generosity of people remembering SALEM in their Will. Please do not hesitate to help ensure that our important work will continue beyond your earthly life. We would like to cordially thank you for this!

*Samuel Müller*

## – Obituary – Gottfried J. Müller

Founder of SALEM  
 \*10.04.1914 +26.09.2009

Gottfried Müller was born on Good Friday, 1914, to parents of deep Christian faith who consecrated him to God. It was his fate to fulfil this confirmation with steadfast and unshakeable faith to bring about God's peace on earth, not only with words, but first and foremost through deeds. His charisma and faith gave him the strength to become an innovator of his times. He saw world events well in advance. He was a man of action.

With Gottfried Müller's passing we have lost a wonderful character. He devoted all his creative power and energy to the service of Christian compassion. His outstanding commitment was always for the needy, the weak in our community, and particularly for the children all over the world.

By his unshakeable faith he showed people ways to overcome all kinds of difficulties and to stand up for peace.

His legacy is our challenge – to courageously shape a more peaceful era. In that respect we founded the SALEM trust.

With your contribution the work of SALEM can be strengthened for the years to come.

*The management, also on behalf of all  
SALEM staff members*

### MY SINCEREST THANKS

*I would like to thank all those who remembered my husband Gottfried Müller in such an honourable, sympathetic, obliging and grateful way. Thank you very much for the most helpful contributions towards the trust fund. May GOD's blessing rest upon the donations and the donors.*

*Ursula Müller*



**SUPPORT SALEM-UGANDA**

To support Salem Uganda you can donate via SALEM International in Germany. If you are in the UK you can also send a cheque, payable to SALEM Scotland, to: 2 Weston Terrace, West Kilbride, Scotland KA23 9JX

or donate online at: [www.justgiving.com/salemscotland](http://www.justgiving.com/salemscotland)

You can also give a Christmas gift that really makes a difference by donating to one of our projects at [www.betterplace.com](http://www.betterplace.com) See the article in this edition of "SALEM Helps" for more information.



Hilary Storm, Charlie Grimm and Pamela Spence planting a tree for SALEM-Scotland in Uganda.

**QUOTATION**

*“All the good a man gives out into the world won’t get lost.”*

*(Translation of a quotation by Albert Schweitzer)*

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**IMPRINT**

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According to the tax assessment of the Bayreuth tax authority of 7 January 2009, tax no.: 208/147/40057, we are recognised as charitable because of our support of young and elderly people, understanding among nations, the protection of animals, environment and nature, as well as development aid; and according to § 5 paragraph 1 no. 9 KStG, we are exempted from corporation tax.

For donations from abroad: BIC: GENODEF1KU1 – IBAN: DE55 7719 0000 0000 2557 77 – or with credit card (Worldpay) through our website.

The SALEM newspaper is printed on 100 % recycled paper at our own SALEM press in Stadtsteinach, Bavaria, Germany.

**LEGEND:**

- GENERAL
- SOCIAL WORK
- DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH AND DIET
- ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

**A trip to SALEM-Uganda**

We finally made the trip to SALEM-Uganda this September, excited to see the project and the work funded by donations sent via SALEM Scotland in the last few years.

We didn’t have to venture far to find a fan of SALEM’s work. Just an hour along the 4 hour journey from the airport, we stopped in the capital Kampala. A man noticed the SALEM minibus and came over. “Your hospital saves so many people” he told us. “The staff there helped my daughter when she was very sick”. He thanked us for the work that SALEM does and told us how highly SALEM is regarded in the community.

Some hours later, we arrived at SALEM-Uganda – it was much bigger than I had imagined! There is a health centre, children’s home, nursery school, medicinal herb garden, tree nursery, shop, staff housing, craft department, tailoring school, guest house and restaurant. All are bustling with activity.

During our visit we met community members collecting tree seedlings and enrolling in a follow up programme. We accompanied SALEM volunteers to schools where they run environment classes and help plant trees to create shade, conserve water and bear fruit.

We took part in a community seminar about medicinal herbs. We met health centre staff and patients. We saw the epilepsy clinic where 150 people had walked miles to be given life-saving anti-epileptic medication.

We played with the children and saw the improvements made to the buildings they live in. We went on social work visits and met other NGOs. The number of areas in which SALEM is engaged is varied, impressive but above all, crucial.

The project that has grown out of a community decimated by war and famine only 30 years ago is impressive, but the need is still huge. The recent drought means crops have failed and SALEM will have to gear itself up to assist more people in the immediate future.

I realised that much of what is achieved in SALEM Uganda happens simply because there is no-one else to do it. When a child is found abandoned, it needs shelter. When so many people are sick, they need help. When the trees are destroyed for firewood, new ones must be replanted. The sheer scale of need means that funds are always stretched impossibly thin. SALEM-Uganda needs our support to be able to continue their work. They have mine. Please join me.

*Pamela Spence, Director SALEM-Scotland*